

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL DISEASE / PATHOGENIC AGENT NOTIFICATION

Paris, 10-12 September 2003

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on terrestrial animal disease/ pathogenic agent notification (“The *ad hoc* Group”) met at the OIE Headquarters from 10-12 September 2003.

The members of the *ad hoc* Group and other participants are listed in Appendix I. The terms of reference are given in Appendix II.

Dr Vallat, Director-General of the OIE, welcomed the participants and thanked them for accepting his invitation to be members of the group. He explained that resolutions adopted by the Regional Commissions and by the International Committee instructed the OIE Central Bureau to work on establishing a single list of animal diseases after proposing criteria for inclusion or exclusion of a disease from the list. He asked the Group to propose some modifications to the Code Chapter on animal disease notification and epidemiological information.

The *ad hoc Group* considered that there were two main tasks at hand for its first meeting:

- 1) Firstly, the defining of list of specific criteria according to which terrestrial animal diseases would be classified as ‘specific hazards’ in line with WTO SPS terminology and entered in the OIE disease list; and
- 2) Secondly, the definition of a set of criteria according to which the ‘urgency’ of reporting of diseases on the list would be applied. In tandem with this, there would also need to be some re-design of the current reporting system to accommodate the new criteria – this would be handled at a later meeting.

The *ad hoc Group* decided to begin with the first task, i.e. that of defining the properties of diseases/pathogens for inclusion in the list and that urgency of reporting would be dealt with separately.

The *ad hoc Group* drew on existing proposals submitted by member countries and on the work of the Aquatic Diseases Group in determining the criteria. It was decided to avoid the use of “scoring” as this was too subjective and thus open to controversy.

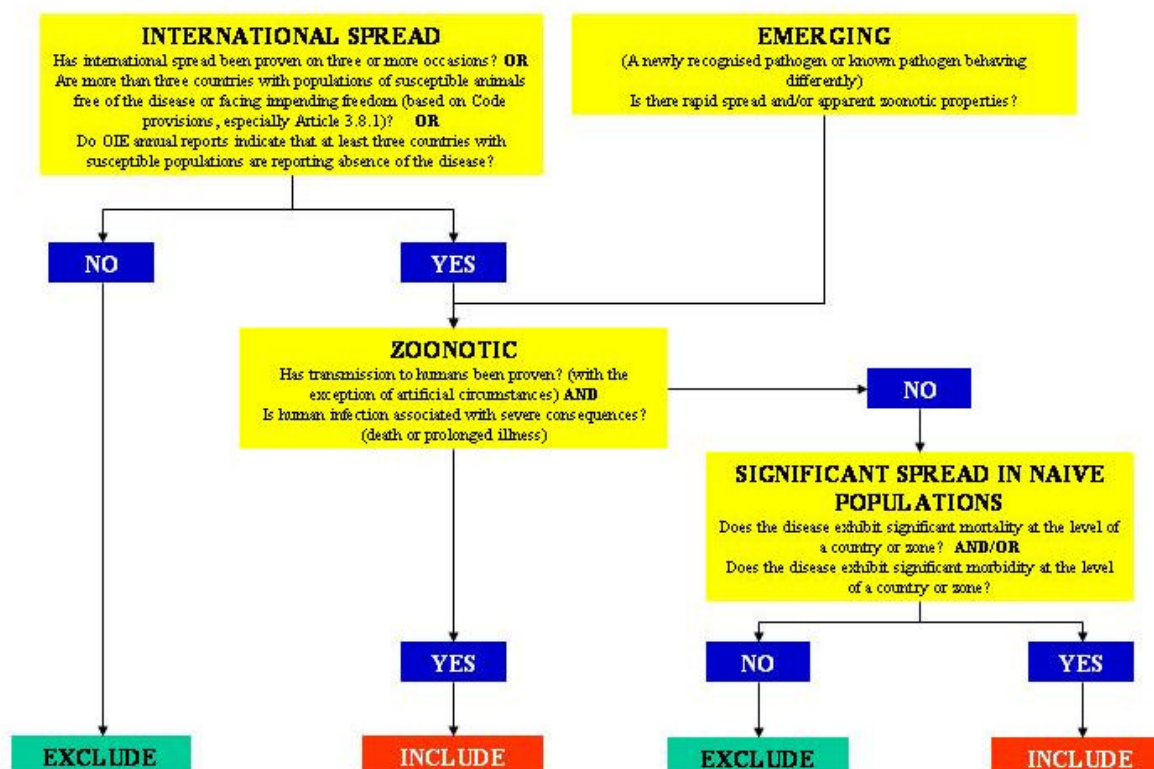
1. Criteria

- a) Criteria were kept to a minimum of easily definable factors. It was reasoned that in considering criteria such as significant spread and zoonotic potential, economic and social issues were being adequately addressed, while the overriding concern would be the potential of a disease for international spread.
- b) The economic impact of a disease is linked directly to its morbidity and mortality. While various economic tools are available for the evaluation of disease impact, these have not been widely enough applied for accurate comparisons to be made between diseases. Mortality and morbidity have, however, been well measured over time.
- c) In terms of the social importance of diseases, their zoonotic effects were considered to be of prime importance. Where diseases disrupt social norms this is once again due to morbidity and mortality.
- d) Further economic effects, such as trade restrictions and the imposition of control measures, are a function of various epidemiologic parameters, such as spread, morbidity, mortality and zoonotic potential.
- e) One or more parameters were connected to each criterion; if a disease was in agreement with at least one of the given parameters, then the criterion was considered to be fulfilled. In cases where the ability of a disease to meet a criterion was considered dependent on a variety of circumstances not always directly connected to the properties of the pathogen, the “worst case” scenario was used.
- f) The criteria proposed are tabulated below.

Basic Criteria (always considering “worst case” scenario)	Parameters (at least one “yes” answer means that the criterion has been met)
International Spread	Has international spread been proven on three or more occasions? OR Are more than three countries with populations of susceptible animals free of the disease or facing impending freedom (based on Code provisions, especially Article 3.8.1)? OR Do OIE annual reports indicate that a significant number of countries with susceptible populations have reported absence of the disease for several consecutive years?
Significant Spread within Naïve Populations	Does the disease exhibit significant mortality at the level of a country or compartment? AND/OR Does the disease exhibit significant morbidity at the level of a country or compartment?
Zoonotic Potential	Has transmission to humans been proven? (with the exception of artificial circumstances) AND Is human infection associated with severe consequences? (death or prolonged illness)

Emerging Diseases (A newly recognised pathogen or known pathogen behaving differently)	Is there rapid spread with morbidity/mortality and/or apparent zoonotic properties?
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- g) These criteria are plotted on a “decision tree” as shown below. A disease fulfilling each of the criteria in order from top downward on the tree is included in the list; a disease that does not meet certain key criteria is excluded.



- h) Following the setting of the criteria for the establishment of a new list of OIE diseases, the *ad hoc* Group gave some thought (see tables below) to examples of diseases that may be included. The drawing-up of a final list awaits review by OIE member countries of the abovementioned criteria.

Testing the Criteria for List Inclusion

A number of diseases were tested against the proposed criteria and their parameters, following the decision tree. Examples are as follows (shaded cells indicate diseases that would qualify for listing on the basis of their international spread and zoonotic potential alone):

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Current List A diseases

Criterion	Parameter	FMD	RVF	NCD	VS	SVD
International spread	Proven spread or	+	+	+		+
	3 countries free / impending free or	+	+	+	+	+
	3 countries with disease absence in OIE reports	+	+	+	+	+
Zoonotic potential	Proven transmission to humans and severe consequences		+		-	
Significant spread in naive populations	Significant mortality or	-		+		
	significant morbidity	+		+	+	+
Outcome		Listed	Listed	Listed	Listed	Listed

Criterion	Parameter	Rinderpest	PRP	CBPP	LSD	Bluetongue
International spread	Proven spread or	+	+	+	+	+
	3 countries free /impending free or	+	+	+	+	+
	3 countries with disease absence in OIE reports	+	+	+	+	+
Zoonotic potential	Proven transmission to humans and severe consequences	-	-	-	-	-
Significant spread in naive populations	Significant mortality or	+	+	+	-	+
	significant morbidity	+	+	+	+	+
Outcome		Listed	Listed	Listed	Listed	Listed

Criterion	Parameter	Sheep + goat pox	AHS	ASF	CSF	HPAI
International spread	Proven spread or	+	+	+	+	+
	3 countries free /impending free or	+	+	+	+	+

	3 countries with disease absence in OIE reports	+	+	+	+	+
Zoonotic potential	Proven transmission to humans and severe consequences	-	-	-	-	+
Significant spread in naive populations	Significant mortality or	+	+	+	+	
	significant morbidity	+	+	+	+	
Outcome		Listed	Listed	Listed	Listed	Listed

Some examples of current List B diseases

Criterion	Parameter	Aujesky's	Anthrax	BSE	Pullorum	Campylobacter	Hydatidosis	Horse mange	CEM	Varroasis	Scrapie
International spread	Proven spread or	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+
	3 countries free /impending free or	+	-	+	+	+	+		+	+	+
	3 countries with disease absence in OIE reports	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Zoonotic potential	Proven transmission to humans and severe consequences	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Significant Spread in naive populations	Significant mortality or	+			+	-		-	-	+	+
	significant morbidity	+			+	+		+	+	+	+
Outcome		Listed	Listed	Listed	Listed	Listed	Listed	Listed	Listed	Listed	Listed

Some currently unlisted diseases

Criterion	Parameter	Hendra/ Nipah	West Nile	BVD	Strangles	Small beehive beetle	Footrot	Listeriosis
International spread	Proven spread or	-	+	+	-	+	-	+
	3 countries free/impending free or	+	+	-	-	+	-	
	3 countries with disease absence in OIE reports	+	+	+	-	+	+	
Zoonotic potential	Proven transmission to humans and severe consequences	+	+	-	-	-	-	+
Significant Spread in naive populations	Significant mortality or			-	-	+	-	
	significant morbidity			+	-	+	-	
Outcome		Listed	Listed	Listed	Not Listed	Listed	Not Listed	Listed

Other pathogens, in particular food borne, will be taken into consideration after consultation with other Working Groups within the OIE.

The *Ad Hoc* Group then proceeded to consider the basic requirements for emergency reporting.

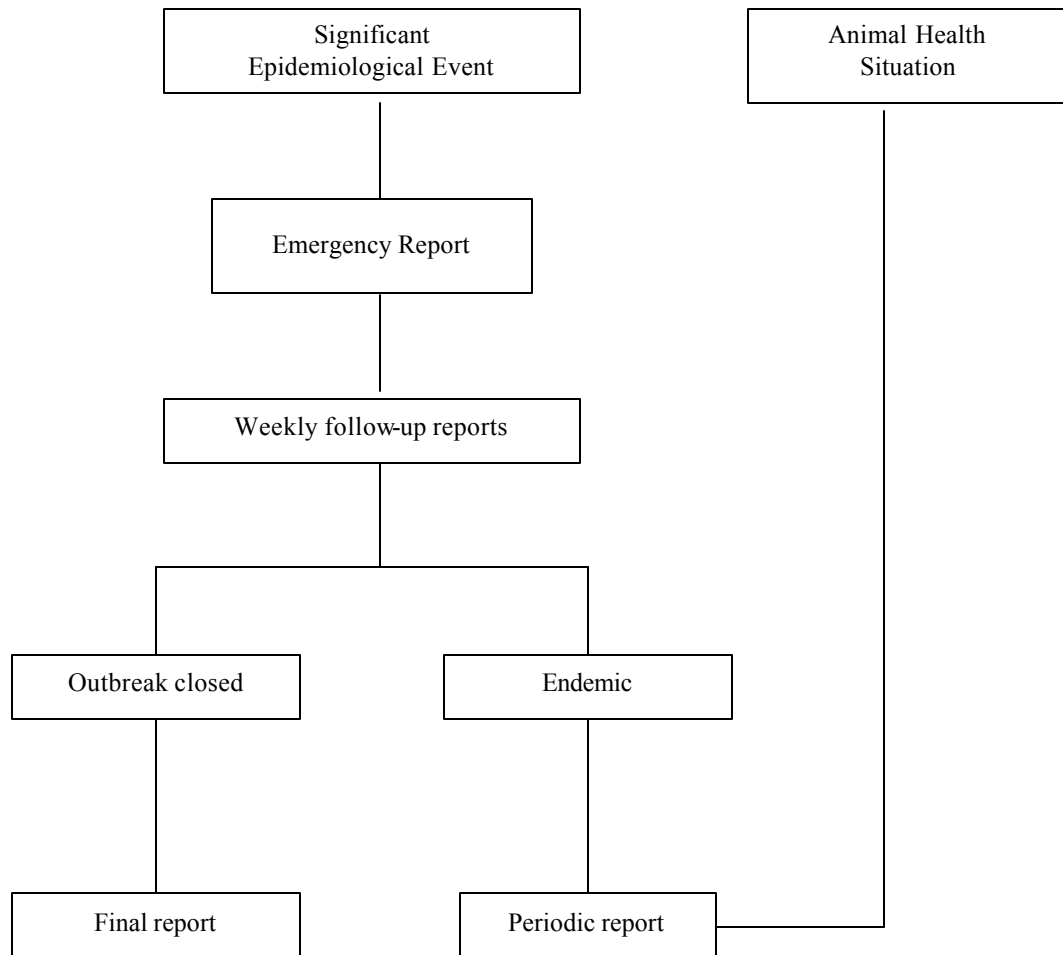
2. Emergency Reporting

- a) All events regarded as having an epidemiological significance must be notified immediately to the OIE as laid down in Article 1.1.3.3.1. of the Terrestrial Code. The Group proposed six alternative scenarios for an event with epidemiological significance.
- b) These are:
 - i) First occurrence of a listed disease and/or infection in a country or compartment.
 - ii) Re-occurrence of a listed disease and/or infection in a country or compartment following a report by the delegate of the country declaring the outbreak closed.
 - iii) First occurrence of a new strain of a pathogen in a country or compartment.
 - iv) A sudden and unexpected increase in the morbidity or mortality caused by an existing disease.
 - v) Emerging diseases with significant morbidity/mortality or zoonotic potential.
 - vi) Evidence of change in the epidemiology of a listed disease (including host range, pathogenicity, strain of causative pathogen) in particular if there is a zoonotic impact.

3. Periodic Reporting

Periodic reports are to include information on the situation with respect to all listed diseases, (including events of epidemiological significance as notified in emergency reports) in the relevant country. A flow chart of the disease notification, including both emergency and periodic reports, is presented in page 7. The Group will give further consideration to the frequency of periodic reports at its next meeting.

DISEASE NOTIFICATION TO THE OIE



TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AD HOC GROUP ON TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL DISEASE / PATHOGENIC AGENTS NOTIFICATION

Paris, 10 - 12 September 2003

Objectives of the Ad hoc Group

The Ad Hoc Group is kindly requested to help the OIE Central Bureau in developing proposals following Resolutions of the International Committee on a new OIE disease information system. The main expected outputs are the following:

1. Criteria for notification of diseases or pathogenic agents

Establish new criteria for notification terrestrial animal diseases or pathogenic agents by Member Countries. The criteria should be scientifically based taking into account the following suggested factors:

- a) The potential for international spread, and
- b) The significant “socio-economic” implications internationally and /or within a country,
 - i) The significant impact in international trade irrespective of impact within a country, or
 - ii) The significant impact on animal production (morbidity/mortality) or the environment, within a country or a group of countries; or
- c) The zoonotic potential (including pathogens which may not always show clinical signs in animals) ; or
- d) An emerging disease with insufficient information available to address the above criteria but of potentially significant international concern; and
- e) Freedom or impending freedom from the disease or pathogenic agent is recognised for several countries.

2. Based on these criteria, establish a list of new OIE notifiable diseases/ pathogenic agents, to be considered for publication in the Terrestrial Code

3. New OIE Information System

a) Immediate disease or pathogenic agent notification (basis for the OIE future early warning system)

- i) Describe criteria for disease/pathogens or epidemiological events to be notified on immediate basis that take into account specific epidemiological situations to be defined. Here below are few examples of suggested criteria:
 - The potential for fast and widespread dissemination, irrespective of national borders, either directly or through vectors; and
 - The first occurrence of a listed disease / pathogenic agent in a country or zone, or re-occurrence in a country or zone considered free (interval of time to be defined); or
 - The occurrence of emerging disease / pathogenic agent listed under 1 d); or

- The expected difficulty in diagnosing/controlling/eradicating occurrence of the disease/pathogenic agent; or
 - Any new findings which are of exceptional epidemiological significance to other countries or are of veterinary public health concern.
- ii) Following these criteria, determine diseases /pathogens and/or epidemiological events that should be reported on immediate basis and eventually describe criteria for each disease/group of diseases that necessitate such urgent notification.

b) Regular disease or pathogenic agent notification (basis for the future OIE monitoring system)

Propose a new system for regular disease or pathogenic agent notification to the OIE that complements A. and define a time frame for such regular notification.

4. Review and adapt the current OIE reporting forms of Member Countries used for A. and B. above.